

AGENT ROY KELLERMAN: "...it was now known to be an upshot into the vehicle..."

1-24-68

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am pleased to be able to report that I have discovered that I do not stand utterly alone in my theory of the mechanics of the assassination: it seems that the Secret Service -or at least the Kellerman faction -held the theory that there were bullets fired into the car on an upward trajectory as late as March 9, 1964, when Kellerman testified.

I am a little ~~too~~ slow: I had missed the following in Kellerman's testimony: ^{Ford} Kellerman and Specter were discussing bubbletops. They talked about Kennedy's bubbletop and then the new top being built for Johnson. ^{Ford} then reverted to the Kennedy top:

Rep. FORD: But as far as you knew the top that was available would not impede the projectile? Do you know whether or not it would deflect its accuracy?

KELLERMAN: Well, I have tried to study that, sir. The angle of the back as an example which is -what degree I don't recall, hoping that -of course, it was now known to be an upshot into the vehicle... (italics mine)

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Specter jumped in and asked a question having nothing to do with Kellerman's statement and trying to confuse the issue. The rest of the statement reads like gibberish, deliberate stenographic jumble, I'm sure.

Kellerman as you know tried hard to get into the record that the entry to the man's head was below exit. He was graphic and insistent about it.

On page 93, Vol 2, Kellerman quotes Colonel Finck as saying of the back wound, "There are no lanes for an outlet of this entry in this man's shoulder." Notice that Kellerman does not go on and add that the wound was at a 45 degree downward angle. (This was the FBI line, a rough guess at the TSBD 6th floor window angle, I think. It is in fact possible that Dr. Finck might have said it was a 45 degree upward angle. A 45 degree downward angle is impossible from any building in Dealey Plaza: but a 45 degree upward angle would about fit the head wounds, and possibly also the back wound.) Kellerman plainly did not think any of the wounds to the President were at a downward angle. He is just as plainly of the opinion that the wounds were at an upward angle. Specter asked if Dr. Finck had any other conversation with him at the time. Kellerman said no but Dr. Humes did.

KELLERMAN: Well, from Dr. Humes, who was the other gentleman out there, from the entry of the skull, from this hole here.

SPECTER: You are now referring to the hole which you describe being below the missing part of the skull?

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KELLERMAN: Yes, sir. It was confirmed that the entry of the shell here went right through the top and removed that piece of the skull.

SPECTER: ...So you are saying that it confirmed that the hole that was below the piece of skull that was removed, was the point of entry of the one bullet which then passed up through the head and took off the skull?

KELLERMAN: Right, sir. That is correct.

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Kellerman was not a joker. He was not trying to mock the theory that these wounds with entries below exits were made from a high window. He was trying to get into the record that he considered that the entry wounds really were below exit wounds; and he implies that Dr. Humes was of that opinion also. This is all Kellerman had to say about ~~any~~ angle and he worked hard to get it into the record.

"..it was now known to be an upset into the vehicle..."
limousine

Kellerman had been inspecting this ~~xxxxxxxx~~ on the 27th of Nov., after he had been present at the autopsy. The Secret Service may, in fact, have had other information that there was an "upset" into the vehicle. It certainly suggests that those present at the autopsy at first considered that the wounds travelled upward.

At any rate, it seems plain to me that Kellerman, and most likely, his faction of the Secret Service (lameducks now) were of the opinion as late as March 9, 1964 that bullets came into the car on an upward trajectory.

Kellerman spent a lot of time trying to get into the record the angle and direction of the crack lines on the windshield. Specter managed to garble that until its hard to figure out. However, I think Kellerman had a reason for all the time he spent on the windshield crack; I think he thought it showed an upward trajectory too.

So I think Kellerman held a theory of "upsets" into the vehicle; of silenced weapons (he kept insisting on "flurry" which is commotion not ~~xxxxxx~~ sound; and that there were more shots fired than three but he had to say he heard only three. And I think he and the Secret Service also held a theory of firecrackers: "this sound which I attribute as a firecracker" - notice the present tense (March 9th interrogation). Also Jean Hill told Mark Lane the Secret Service suggested to her that some of the shots she heard were firecrackers.

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